



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named
Inventor : Albert J. Sturm, Jr.

Appln. No.: 09/829,269

Filed : April 9, 2001

Group Art Unit: 3726

For : SEGMENTED SUPPORT STRUCTURE AND
METHOD AND FIXTURE FOR MAKING
THE SAME

Examiner:

Docket No.: P19.12-0036

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PAPER IS
BEING SENT BY U.S. MAIL, FIRST CLASS,
TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS,
P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-
1450, THIS

7⁴
20⁰⁶ DAY OF October,


PATENT ATTORNEY

Sir:

Applicant calls to the attention of the Examiner the following information in connection with the above application. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(g) and (h), the disclosure of the following information in the Information Disclosure Statement shall not constitute a representation that a search for prior art was made or an admission that the information is material or that it is prior art:

On or about June 1998, PaR Systems, Inc. (the Assignee of the present application by virtue of a recorded assignment) received an order to deliver a vertically extending telescoping tube mast with performance stability requirements. Use of an active damper on the mast was recognized as necessary to meet these stability requirements. Briefly, the active damper provided damping by controlled movement of a mass. This active damper was obtained from a third party vendor having expertise in this technology.

Subsequent to the purchase order and prior to delivery, the concept of a telescoping mast having tube sections with

overlapping plates and a viscoelastic damping material placed therebetween was conceived. It was decided to include this type of tube construction, such as illustrated in Figs. 5 and 6 of the present application, without the knowledge of the customer in the telescoping tube mentioned above.

As required by the contract, the vertically extending telescoping tube mast is very large. The mast extended downwardly having a stroke of approximately 10 feet using two moving tubes, which when retracted, nest within a fixed tube. Despite its long length, the mast must be rigid throughout its stroke in order to accurately know the position of the remote end. The active damper was provided in order to control oscillatory movement during operation of the telescoping tube mast particularly since it is mounted to a gantry system that allows movement of the mast assembly in a plane orthogonal to extension and retraction of the mast. At that time, it was unknown whether or not the passive damping concept provided by the viscoelastic material and the construction of the mast assembly would provide necessary damping without the use of the active damper. Nevertheless, it was decided that construction of the mast assembly in this manner would not affect rigidity and therefore the mast assembly was built using this technique.

After the mast assembly was assembled at the customer's site on or about September 1999, and proximate to the acceptance testing of the system, the passive damping characteristics of the mast assembly was tested by turning off the active damper. This test was conducted without telling the customer. No prototypes of the mast assembly were built prior to the telescoping mast mentioned above with respect to the above-stated purchase order. Testing confirmed that the mast design with passive damping met or exceeded intended use requirements.

TIME OF FILING

An information disclosure statement is being filed by the applicant within any one of the following time periods:

1. x 1. Within three month of the filing date of a national application other that a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA);
2. Within three months of the date of entry of the National Stage international application;
3. Before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits, or
4. Before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a Request for Continue Examination (RCE).

METHOD OF PAYMENT

x No fee is required.

 Attached is a check in the amount of \$_____.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTMAN, CHAMPLIN & KELLY, P.A.

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